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Farm · Home · School



Planning For Creative Living

We hear a lot of talk to-day about the need for more planning in the building of our urban communities. "Let us destroy the ugly and the sordid; let us rebuild our towns and cities," the planners say, "and we shall destroy much that is ugly and sordid in the souls of men." A great deal of this is true, contentment and beauty cannot thrive in the unplanned industrial warrens whose smoke grimed fingers are stretching further across the country.

Some cities have recognized this need for planning through the appointment of a Town Planning Commissioner. It is his job to see that room for future expansion is taken care of in such a manner that there is no intermingling of industrial and residential development. This type of planning is, however, still in its infancy. Too often we see these industrial and residential units being intermingled with no thought for the well being of the inhabitants.

Canada is undergoing a vast industrial expansion. Old cities are expanding, new ones are being built. This presents an unparalleled opportunity for the development of urban Canada to proceed along the lines laid down by the modern planners. In the last resort the future well-being of Canada rests in large measure upon our ability as a nation to face the problem of growth in an orderly manner.

The expansion already noted has not been solely in the industrial sector of our economy. Agriculture has, during this same period, undergone a profound change in technology and outlook. Increasing size of farms, greater use of labour saving machinery have, and still are making their presence felt throughout the farming communities. It is an era of expansion in agriculture too; expansion in capital outlays; expansion in the size of individual farms. These are the factors which are making their presence felt throughout the agricultural communities.

This revolution in farming methods has brought with it new problems. The farmer is no longer moving

with the slow and easy pace of the horse and buggy. He is mechanized; problems of a new and different nature are facing him. To meet these problems the farmer must plan; plan for work; plan for leisure. He cannot call upon the services of a planning commissioner, he must needs look after his own requirements.

The farm serves a two-fold purpose, it is at one and the same time an industrial plant and a residential area. Modern planning in the urban areas is aimed at separating these two functions. It is no less important that they be separated on the farm also. The farm home should be designed for leisurely living removed as far as possible from close contact with the industrial plant. Rural life will be richer and fuller if it is created within this environment.

People are leaving the land, and they will continue to do so, for agriculture is an overpopulated industry with too many people living in marginal areas receiving too little for their labour. The Canadian nation benefits from the fact that an expanding industrial machine can absorb these people in gainful employment. Our main concern centres about the type of person who remains. The new agricultural techniques require a breadth of vision and planning of a high order. Creative rural living is the answer. This and this alone will tend to keep within agriculture those who are best suited to remain. Agriculture itself must have something more to offer than sentiment. It must present a dynamic approach to its problems. People must feel a sense of accomplishment. This represents rural living at its finest.

Our Cover Picture

Whether it's grass or corn, the cows will appreciate it next winter. Actually, it's grass being blown in to the new silo at Macdonald College.

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A Genuine Canadian Plant

by E. L. Eaton



This machine is a blueberry field cleaner. Mechanically operated, it saves time and labour in getting the crop to market. Standing left to right are R. M. Burry, Agricultural Representative, Guysborough, N.S. and James Boudreau, President of the Co-operative Society, Dover, N.S.

Anybody who has ever eaten blueberry pie knows only too well what a fine succulent fruit the blueberry really is. In the Maritimes, where our blueberries are grown they are constantly striving to improve upon the varieties marketed.

AMONG the great assortment of fruit, vegetable, forage and grain plants which form the basis of Canadian agriculture, the low-bush blueberry is one of the few native crops which has achieved commercial importance.

The blueberry is a rather slow growing, long lived perennial. It belongs to that large group of heath plants which thrive on our more acid and often less fertile soils.

The older botany texts list a rather large number of blueberry species having black, blue, slate, pink or white coloured fruits as well as differing in other plant characters. More recent studies have shown that seed from an individual plant may give rise to many of these variants while the high-bush types will cross readily with the low-bush under suitable conditions. In most of our natural blueberry fields, therefore, a wide range of varietal types exist, differing widely in their vigor, productiveness, resistance to disease, date of maturity and quality of fruit.

On this humble foundation the blueberry industry of Canada has been built. Although regular controlled burning and weeding are practised and yields as high as 100 bushels per acre are occasionally reported, competing plants, uneven ripening, diseases and insects all exact a heavy toll. Even with these handicaps the value of the commercial blueberry crop in the five eastern provinces is greater than that of all other small fruits combined, and among fruit crops is exceeded only by the apple.

The high-bush blueberry is native in only a few of the milder regions of Canada and is, therefore, more spectacular where the large fruited, cultivated varieties have been introduced. On bushes from four to eight feet high, with berries one-half to three-quarters of an inch in diameter, some varieties have an aromatic flavor not equalled by any wild forms.

The original high-bush blueberry plantation at Kentville was set in 1926 and now at the end of twenty-five years shows no indication of old age. This block includes such old varieties as Adams, Greenfields, Grover, Harding, Katherine, Pioneer, Rancocas, Rubel and Sam. Only the Rancocas of this group is now recommended for general planting.

Newer plantings have added many seedlings and crosses as well as the varieties Atlantic, Berkeley, Burlington, Charlotte, Colville, Concord, Dixi, Evelyn, Fraser, Jersey, Johnston, Lulu, Pemberton, Richmond, Scammel, Stanley and Weymouth. Of these the Jersey and Burlington are particularly good. The Atlantic, Berkeley, Colville and Dixi look highly promising but are not yet fruiting heavily enough to judge them accurately.

The varieties Kengrape, Kenlate and Kenafter were named at Kentville some years ago. The Kengrape was chosen because of its extremely large fruit and low spreading branches, but the berry lacks flavor. The Kenlate and Kenafter were chosen to extend the season on the last end but the Kenlate lacks vigor and the Kenafter berry is too small. None of these are now recommended but some crosses of Kengrape with varieties having more flavor have given rise to seedlings that are promising.

The special cultural needs of the high-bush blueberry have been met by the use of sawdust mulch — whether on, in or under the ground seems to be of less importance than its presence in generous amounts. When growth is encouraged early, and checked in late summer, winter



This is a section of the new Experimental Substation set up at Tower Hill, N.B. during 1949, to study the problems of blueberry culture.



These are high bush Blueberries which were planted in the Kentville district of Nova Scotia, fourteen years ago. The variety Adams is on the left, and Rancocas on the right. The stake is six feet high.

killing has not been a problem. The long keeping qualities of the fruit have simplified the matter of marketing.

Tests at a number of outside points throughout the Maritimes indicate that the crop is widely adapted throughout the region. The limestone soils of Quebec, Ontario and the West seem less suited.

In 1949, an Experimental Substation was set up at Tower Hill, N.B. to study problems of the low-bush blueberry. This is located in the heart of the best natural blueberry region of that province, Charlotte County, and is intended to serve all the Maritimes. The farm is approximately fifty acres and contains fields in every stage of development from newly cut-over forest to extremely old cultivated lands which have reverted to blueberries. Dates of brush cutting, chemical weed killers, methods of transplanting, selection of better varieties, as well as the more technical problems connected with the set of fruit are receiving attention.

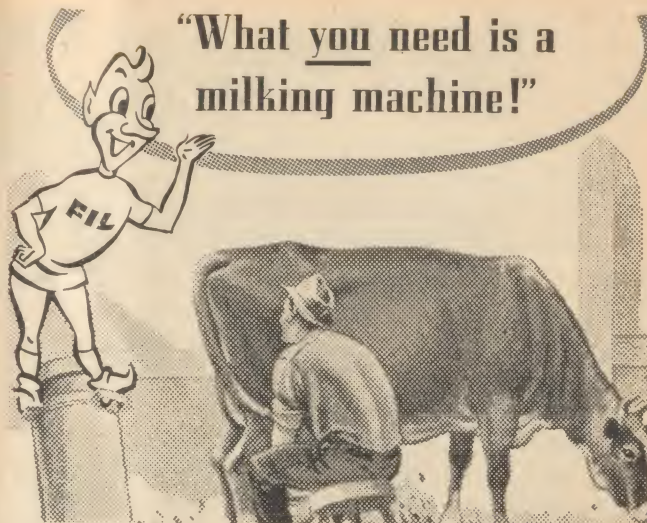
Differences Here

The chief difference between a good farmer and a poor farmer is not that the one is intelligent and industrious while the other is stupid and lazy. The poor farmer is often as industrious and intelligent as the good farmer.

The chief difference is that the good farmer forms the habit of taking advantage of every opportunity to add value to his investment. He eliminates all waste, he takes care of his stock, keeps everything in good repair, and is continually improving his soil. He may not work so hard but he makes every lick count. He does what ought to be done at the time it ought to be done and in the way it ought to be done.

The poor farmer's failure often is not due to ignorance nor to a lack of energy; it is due chiefly to misdirected energy, and this is more due to bad habits formed early in life than it is to ignorance. His timing system is out of fix.

No other education is quite so important for farmers as that training in work habits that enables him to make his work really effective. This training a boy must get at home if he gets it at all.



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The National Farm Radio Forum Conference

by J. Davidson

"The hardest working Conference I ever saw"

MANY people who attend conventions and conferences are disappointed because it all seems 'cut and dried' before they get there. The same few people do all the discussing — and most of us have to sit and listen. But if you were at the National Farm Radio Forum Conference in Montreal recently you would have had a new experience. The fact that there were close to one hundred people in the conference room didn't prevent participation — everyone had a chance. How? By organizing the meeting into small groups.

Take the discussion on Topics if you want an example. Everyone had a chance to express his opinion in a small group. By the time the group reports were half in, four blackboards were full of their topic suggestions. At this point Floyd Griesbach, National Farm Forum Secretary, was overheard talking to a person who had been sceptical of this procedure: "There now — see how it works! Are you convinced you can get results from small groups?" The grin that met Floyd's remark and vigorous nod of the head left no doubts — He was convinced all right.

The people who are responsible for the Farm Forum program don't take their duties lightly. Here is how H. H. Hannam, C.F.A. President and Chairman of the N.F.R.F. Board, put it at the end of the Conference: "I attend a lot of conferences in a year but the pace and work done at this one tops them all. This is the hardest working conference I ever saw."

And that was no exaggeration. The first day the Provincial Secretaries and National office staff discussed problems. The second day the National Board made decisions on policy. The third and fourth days were open



East meets West at the Farm Forum Conference. Reading from left to right, Jim Davidson, secretary Quebec Forums, Dave Robinson, Saskatchewan secretary, Stuart Tweedie, representing the Manitoba Forums, Bob Graham, assistant supervisor, Farm Broadcast Department, and Lincoln Dewar, P.E.I. secretary.

meetings at which topics for the 1952-53 season were discussed.

There was a party on the first evening of the open session. But it wasn't all fun and games. We worked then too! We joined in a discussion "Whither Farm Forum." As a result we all got pointers on what we should do to keep up interest in Forums.

Then came Sunday, with more unfinished business. The National Board met again — people in forum work right across Canada — to make final decisions and handle unfinished business from previous meetings.

The purpose of Farm Forum is to give us a means for solving our problems. So we meet and discuss possible solutions in small groups — choose the best possible solution — and take action together. It sounds simple and it is. But more important it is a really dynamic force. We should unleash more often the power of small group discussion at our Conferences and in our local meetings. When we do we are much surer to find the right answers. The reasons are important. Everyone's opinion is looked for and decisions are reached by agreement.

The National Farm Radio Forum Conference worked hard on Forum problems. But you all know in the final analysis it is what you do in local Forums that counts most. Shouldn't we take a look at our Forum problems, discuss them and go to work correcting them?



Snapped between conferences were Wallace Rennie of Huntingdon, Fred Green, Compton, Jim Lang, Brysonville, Keith Bradley, Mansonville, and Neil Creller of Bedford.

Information Please!

This section should make interesting reading, for it is given over to the problems of our readers. Problems sent in by Farm Forum and other groups will be dealt with here.

MANY people, farmers, small holders and others, often grow a few apple trees for their own convenience, mainly, perhaps, to provide for their own and their families needs for fresh fruit during the winter months. It is to these people, rather than the professional grower to whom this information is slanted.

These people have special problems which do not arise with the commercial grower. He carries on an organized spraying program throughout the summer. These other people because of the small number of their trees, they may range anywhere from two or three to a dozen or more, are not in a position to put through an expensive spraying program. These trees, therefore, are often subject to attack by fungi and insects which do not trouble the large commercial grower. One of these pests is the apple tree borer.

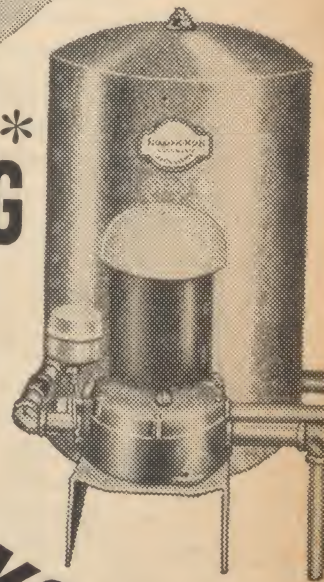
Question: "Is there any known method of dealing with the apple tree borer other than crawling around the entire orchard on hands and knees once or twice a year?"

Answer: The apple tree borer is a native American insect whose life cycle requires from one to four years. The beetles are active from late April to September, but the greatest numbers are to be found in the mid-summer.

After the eggs are laid and hatch, the larvae bores into the trees. In the larger trees they work for a time in the sap wood and later penetrate to the heart of the tree; in young trees they may go directly to the heart wood, and in such trees the work of a single larva may be enough to destroy the tree. In larger trees there may be little visible effect on the condition of the tree caused by the presence of the borer.

As regards control. Artificial control has been attempted in several ways none of which is entirely satisfactory. The surest way of getting rid of the pests is placed on "worming," that is, mechanical destruction of the worms in the trees by inserting a piece of wire into the hole and twisting it around until the worm has been killed. If there are not many trees the owner himself may be able to handle this method satisfactorily, if there are more than a few, this method may be rather expensive of labour and time. One of the most effective and easier methods of control is to use a good regular spray program. As has been stated earlier, however, this method may not be feasible owing to the greater expense involved. For the small man these two methods will have to be weighed against each other on the cost side.

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Trends In Orchard Spraying

by A. D. Pickett

A revolution in the design and efficiency of orchard spraying equipment has taken place within the life of most of us. In this article, Mr. Pickett discusses the pros and cons of the newer machines, and some of the sprays which are used with them.

IN the older, established fruit growing areas of Canada almost any fruit grower with gray hair around his temples and a thinly-thatched top can well remember the most ancient spray-rigs known to man. In fact, it is quite probable that some of these people furnished the manpower that supplied the pressure necessary for operation. The past twenty or thirty years have, however, seen profound changes in spray machinery design and construction.

In 1925 the average orchard sprayer in eastern Canada had a two cylinder pump carrying a maximum of 300 pounds pressure powered by a stationary-type, single-cylinder engine. This machine with a single gun outlet could treat from three to four acres of orchard per day. No doubt this was a distinct improvement over the earlier hand-powered machines, but, admittedly, the standard of performance was low.

The following two decades saw vast improvements in producing high pressure, high volume pumps with multiple cylinder engines to run them. In these machines the pressure developed in the pump had to be sufficient to break up the liquid so that it would distribute the chemicals fairly evenly over the tree as well as furnish the driving power to carry the spray to the tops of the tallest trees. The capacity of the pumps was increased from four to five gallons per minute up to as much as ten times those amounts. Pressures up to 600-800 pounds became standard. The spray tank capacity gradually increased from the 40 gallon barrel on the man-powered rigs to anything from 200-500 gallon capacity.

As this type of machine was undergoing development several basic weaknesses became apparent. Firstly, high pressure is needed to drive the spray up to the tree tops. Increasing the pressure tends to break the spray up into finer particles and these are more influenced by winds. In order to get a fairly coarse spray that could be forced up against moderate winds, it was necessary to increase the size of the nozzle outlet. Increase in nozzle size tended to increase spray shock and over-spraying of certain parts of the tree necessitating the use of weaker spray mixtures and the transport of huge quantities of water. The heavier machines required to provide frequent and rapid spraying increased the problems of early spring spraying on wet soils and of soil compaction. Over-spraying and



Old rigs and old methods did the job, but they were slow and labour consuming. Longer hours and harder work was the lot of the orchardist who operated this rig.

shock tended to increase fruit russetting, spray residues, excessive run-off and wastage of expensive material.

Considering these factors, it appears more or less apparent that the present type of high-pressure, high volume machine has probably reached the peak of its development.

During and following World War II the increased costs of fruit production, and, especially, the higher cost of and the difficulty of obtaining experienced labour have tended to focus attention toward the use of more efficient mechanized equipment for applying sprays. Furthermore, the necessities of war stimulated the development of newer types of machines for producing artificial fogs, smoke-screens and equipment for the wide-spread destruction of disease-carrying insects and other organisms. All of these factors have had an influence on the present trend of modernizing pest control equipment.

The newer machines have been designed to: economize on the use of labor; speed up the operation; remove the human weakness inherent in hand-operated equipment and economize on the use of water. These mist-blowers or concentrate sprayers use the ordinary spray pump, operating under relatively low pressure to deliver the spray to the nozzles where it is caught in an air-blast that further atomizes it and delivers it into the trees. The air-blast is provided by a fan or air turbine. One of the most successful of these new machines is the well-known "Speed" sprayer which is adapted to the treatment of large acreages in a minimum of time. Other types attempt to combine lightness of equipment with maximum coverage and with these the spray mixture may be concentrated anywhere from two to ten times. All of these

machines that depend on an air-blast to carry the spray are limited in efficiency by winds to an even greater extent than the older types and this applies particularly to smaller machines. This deficiency may be overcome, at least to some degree, by choosing suitable periods for operating such as early morning, evening, night or relatively calm days. Each type of machine must be appraised on its ability to deliver the spray chemicals effectively under the conditions that are likely to prevail at the time the spraying must be done. A number of these low volume, air-blast machines are now being used successfully in the various fruit growing areas of North America. While their design may be considerably altered during the next few years, it appears evident that they will gradually, and possibly wholly, replace the high-pressure, high volume types now in common use.

Materials

At the beginning of the present century, the commonly used spray materials were Bordeaux mixture, Paris green and kerosene emulsion. During the next quarter century lime sulphur, sulphur dust, lead and calcium arsenates and nicotine sulphate were added to the list. With the exception of the inauguration of widespread use of finely divided sulphur and petroleum oils, very little change was made in the next two decades. Near the end of World War II a number of new spray chemicals were developed and today new ones are appearing at an alarming rate. Indeed, so many new materials have appeared on the market that no one person can hope to be familiar with all of them. Many of these new materials have very specific uses. Some are much safer on fruit and foliage and result in better finish and appearance. In general, the use of these new chemicals has tended to increase the initial costs but these are offset in many instances by other savings and by higher quality products. After obtaining all the technical advice available, each grower will have to determine the materials most suitable to his particular needs.

Discussion of Pest Problems

Space does not allow an exhaustive discussion of the value of spraying for pest control. Certainly there was a need for the control of pests beyond that provided by nature or spraying would not have started in the first



Another example of high labour costs. Three men doing a job that to-day can be carried out faster and more efficiently by one man. Not only are the labour requirements low, but coverage of the trees is greater with the modern rigs.



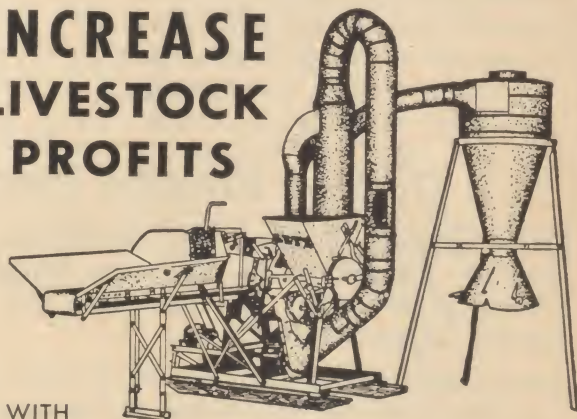
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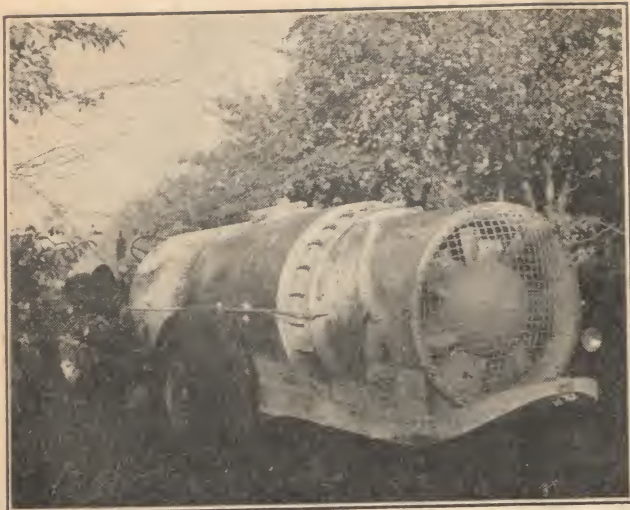
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place. It is apparent to many observers that the results from spraying are not always what we anticipate they should be, and that as time goes on some pests become more difficult to control and new ones appear. The latter may have been present for many years, but did not rank as important pests. In order to understand these phenomena, it is necessary to understand that nature provides natural checks and balances which tend to keep all species within certain limits of population. The population of any species varies greatly in nature, but it is usually only on occasion that insects appear in such numbers that they do extensive damage. It is at such times that we require the introduction of artificial controls such as the application of sprays. If, however, in applying sprays, we destroy also the natural enemies of the original pest, or those

of any other pest that is present, the final result may be more serious than the condition that originally existed.

The problem that faces us is to know whether we should attempt to correct the situation after it has developed by further treatments or try to avoid promoting these disturbances. There are two schools of thought on this subject. The first group maintain that interference with nature is an inherent feature of agricultural practices; that having upset established balances by initiating agricultural pursuits the only practical solution thereafter is to meet each problem as it arises with the means first to hand. This approach appeals to most practical-minded people and, in general, has worked reasonably well; the weakness is that some of the problems involved may become unmanageable. This has already developed in some instances and threaten in many others. It is becoming increasingly evident that we cannot indefinitely move on to greener fields.

The second school is of the opinion that agriculture need not necessarily interfere violently with natural balances and that by studying the relationship of agriculture to nature we can secure many benefits without promoting the grim conflicts which might otherwise develop. The situation in pest control is very similar to that encountered in medicine. While we are inclined to look with awe and admiration on the various triumphs of curative treatments, it is the unspectacular methods of the prevention of disease that have so vastly lengthened the average life span. Consequently, there appears to be merit in attempting to develop control practices which simply assist nature rather than take the attitude that, since nature has not provided adequate control in all instances, she may be entirely ignored.

Quebec Forums Elect First Woman President

Mrs. Gilbert Telford of Shawville, elected President of Quebec Farm Forum Association at the June Provincial Council Meeting.

FARM FORUMS are family affairs. So it is only appropriate that our Farm Forum Association name a woman president for the 1952-53 season.

Your new president comes from Shawville in Pontiac County. Just ask anyone up there if they know Mrs. Telford and they'll say "Norma? Oh sure, everyone knows her."

Now just why does everyone know "Norma?" For the simple reason that she works extremely hard in all kinds of worthy community affairs. She is presently Secretary-Manager of the Pontiac County Co-operative Medical Services. While this co-op service was being organized by the Forums in Pontiac, Mrs. Telford worked endless hours on the road explaining and encouraging people to join.



The new president poses with her executive. From left to right, W. Hodgman, Birchton, 2nd vice-president, Mrs. G. Telford, Shawville, president. K. Bradley, Mansonville, 1st vice-president, and Neil Creller, Bedford, past president. J. D. Lang, Byrsonville, executive member was absent at the time the picture was taken.

Don't get the idea that Forum projects in Pontiac County are a 'one woman' show. They aren't. But Mrs.

Telford has a record 'for getting things done' and her advice is sought when a particularly knotty problem must be solved. She has had plenty of experience.

Farm Forums and their problems are not the only way that Mrs. Telford has been kept busy. She has had a family to care for — six in all and five of them girls. While two girls are married now and a third away from home, this was not the case back when Forums were being organized. The family farm five miles west of Shawville is a dairy farm and with a growing family there wasn't too much spare time. But in those early days of Farm Forum many miles were put on the family auto by Gilbert, Norma and family just to encourage neighbourhoods to organize into Forum groups. There was never any thought about compensation.

Last season Mrs. Telford served in the executive of Quebec Farm Forums as 1st vice-president and as your Forum representative on the National Board of Farm Radio Forum. She has served also as 2nd vice-president of the executive and has been a member of the Provincial Forum Council for a number of years.

New executive members for the 1952-53 season are as follows:

President Mrs. Gilbert Telford, Shawville
1st Vice-President K. T. Bradley, Mansonville
2nd Vice-President Walter S. Hodgman, Birchton
Executive Member J. D. Lang, Brysonville
Past President Neil F. Creller, Bedford
Secretary-Treasurer Jas. T. Davidson

"JOE BEAVER"

By Ed Nofziger



"Man-caused fires are more numerous than lightning fires which generally hit the top of a ridge during a rain."

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The bureau of Statistics index of farm prices of agricultural products of 1951 is estimated at 287.2 (1935-39=100). This is a record, being almost 27 points higher than the 1950 index which itself was a record. The increase is attributed to higher prices received for livestock, potatoes, dairy products poultry and eggs. In calculating the index for 1951 the initial price has been used for wheat, oats and barley in the Prairie Provinces from August 1. There will be an upward revision when participation payments are made on these grains.

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Finding A Solution To Marketing Problems

by J. Davidson

The Quebec Farm Forum Council recommends a fresh approach to the perennial problems of Livestock Marketing.

WHY do we have this problem of lower prices for livestock while costs of production keep on increasing? You, the farmer are caught in the squeeze. The point is can anything be done about it?

Well it isn't a pleasant situation in which to find ourselves. You know the solution will not be found very quickly and it won't be an easy task. Yet some beginning has to be made. Your Provincial Farm Forum Council at its first meeting of the new season in June spent a good deal of time figuring out a possible course of action.

Now first of all what are some of the main *causes* for the present apparent 'over-supply' and lower prices for most livestock products? The twenty some persons attending the Council Meeting organized into small groups to discuss this question. Here are their conclusions. **FIRST:** We have the problem of **FLUCTUATING PRODUCTION** caused by (1) Farmers producing with little or no thought given to planning production in relation to effective demand and total supply. (2) Speculation on some produce (3) Consumer resistance to price or lack of purchasing power. **SECOND:** We are faced with a **LACK OF EXPORT MARKETS** caused by (1) Currency problems and lack of purchasing power in Britain, Europe and other parts of the world (2) The U.S. foot and mouth embargoes against our livestock. **THIRD:** We must recognize there are **CHANGES IN CONSUMER DEMAND** which affect us — examples: (1) margarine consumption, (2) imported fruits instead of local fruits, (3) consumer resistance for some reason to eating cheese and using lard in baking — and **FOURTH:** The age old problem of **HEAVY MARKETINGS** at certain times of the year and resulting lower prices. Buyers also take undue advantage of unusual situations to force down prices.

The Council after first finding out the causes for marketing problems then discussed the **SHORT TERM EMERGENCY** solutions and **LONG TERM** recommendations.

For **SHORT TERM** measures the Council suggests (1) A positive realistic approach to the currency problems of importing nations (2) Adequate price supports for the emergency period (3) Extension of barter systems to other products (such as pork) as was done with beef to Great Britain (4) Advertising of livestock products (5) Avoidance by producers of panic selling.

LONG TERM recommendations call for the establishment of strong well-organized **LIVESTOCK PRODUCT**



The Conference gets down to business. Small groups grapple with the problems of marketing farm produce.

ASSOCIATIONS (an Association for each major product). These Associations would be set up to: (1) Conduct advertising campaigns and engage in public relations with consumers. (2) Encourage farmer members to gear production to demand by supplying them with the true market situation — present and future. (3) Aim to have quality grading of livestock products rigidly enforced from the producer to the consumer. (4) Aim to have farmers produce the quality product desired by consumers. (5) Engage in the marketing of livestock products when possible. If not possible, to at least be in a bargaining position. (6) Aim to establish more storage and processing facilities under direct control of producers. (7) Conduct studies into lack of credit and other problems that have an effect in forcing farmers to go in and out of production.

Armed with the findings of this discussion on livestock marketing problems K. T. Bradley and P. D. McArthur (both Provincial Council members) attended the semi-annual meeting of the C.F.A. in Ottawa during June. You have all read of the Defence Food Plan recommended by the C.F.A. to the federal government. The defence Food Plan calls for stock piling of surplus food, making loans to dollar scarce countries to buy food and making gifts of food to needy countries. The C.F.A. also asked for extension of floor prices to the poultry industry.

You can be assured that your two delegates to the C.F.A. semi-annual meeting were well prepared to make the influence of Quebec Farm Forum Association felt. Discussion of this problem before hand was a big help to them.

Over a period of millions of years certain trees have developed their own pesticides to protect themselves from the attacks of destructive insects. Professor Erdtman of Sweden has discovered that chemicals with insecticidal, fungicidal and bactericidal properties are found in the central part of certain conifers. This may help the scientists to produce a similar but much stronger pesticide.

Breeding Apples Resistant To Apple Scab

THE discovery of blossom thinning and harvest sprays, and the periodical development of new chemicals to control apple scab are familiar to the commercial apple grower. Less well known to the orchardist and particularly the general public, but even more far-reaching in importance, is the behind-the-scenes work of the fruit breeder and plant pathologist. Not until a new variety has been introduced and not until it has become of economic importance does the long work of the scientist gain recognition.

It is estimated that in 1948, Canadian apple growers in producing a crop valued at approximately twenty-two million dollars, spent nearly one million dollars on spray materials alone for the control of the fungus known as apple scab. If this high cost of spray materials and the additional cost of labour to apply them could be reduced, the margin of profit to the grower would be greatly broadened.

Apple breeders and fruit pathologists, in recognizing the situation and in realizing that a great contribution might be made to the industry by the development of commercial varieties resistant to this disease, have undertaken the task of searching for sources of resistance. Their search has not been in vain and they have found that certain species of apples are immune to at least some of the strains of the fungus. But the immune types bear apples of small size and poor quality, and the problem is to incorporate the highly important resistance character of these seedlings into commercial varieties. This can be done only through a breeding program in which the inferior small-fruited types are crossed with McIntosh and other commercial varieties.

On the basis of Mendelian laws of inheritance, it is expected that some members of the family, having either a resistant father or a resistant mother, will resemble that parent in that they will also be resistant. It is the resistant

"children" that are of special interest to the breeder. Although it may seem relatively easy, the task is a most difficult one. Although some of the "children" do inherit the resistance character, at the same time they also inherit some of the undesirable characters of the resistant parent, such as small fruit and poor quality. This makes it necessary to cross repeatedly the resistant "children" with the commercial varieties until the good fruit characters along with the resistance are concentrated in the new variety.

Strains of the fungus also complicate the objective. A particular variety or species selection of apple might be resistant to a certain strain or strains of the fungus, but be susceptible to others. The importance of the strains is not fully established. Plant pathologists are studying the fungus in order to determine the strains that exist in nature, the manner in which these strains arose and whether or not new strains are likely to arise in the future.

A co-operative project between the Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, and the Division of Botany and Plant Pathology, Science Service, Ottawa, for the breeding of apples resistant to apple scab was begun in 1949. In carrying out this project the seedlings from controlled crosses are grown in a greenhouse during the winter months and are inoculated with the scab fungus. The seedlings which become infected with the disease are discarded. The resistant seedlings are planted in the field where they remain until they bear fruit. Resistant seedlings with desirable fruit and tree characters are tested as possible commercial varieties.

Despite the many obstacles, the fruit breeder and plant pathologist are optimistic, and it is highly probable that commercial varieties of tomorrow will be highly resistant to apple scab, permitting the production of a disease free crop with a very limited spray program.

Auto Gives Clue To Family Living

"New car, no car, old car, new car."

Any economist or historian might have a different version, but Iowa State College home management specialists say that you can trace what's been happening to family living in the last 30 years with those words.

Just when the model-T and some of its fancier kin-folks were clipping off a good 15 to 45 miles an hour down the highway, more families began to see how folks lived over in the next county or state. Family living broadened, folks spent more money to go places, and life of the 20's was reflected in general well-being throughout the home.

Then came a time when "no car" was preferred to "no food;" when families drained the family budget for the immediate necessities of living, and recreation became a matter of staying at home to play dominoes.

Life in the late 30's was a little easier, with most folks managing a car of some sort. Just when things looked brightest for the car-of-the-future, military demands curtailed car production, and folks got along somehow with the old model.

Postwar years brought back the "new car," and family financiers took a deep breath, dug into the pocketbook and purchased a late model. Once again, that part of the budget known as "recreation" got a larger look-in.

What's ahead, say the home management specialists, depends a lot on the defense program, but another "older car" era may be in view. They don't claim to be automobile production experts, but they do know that how well the family gets along in good times or emergencies depends a lot on wise planning and juggling of the family income.

Canadian Soil Conditioner

A NEW organic chemical soil conditioner which converts hard-packing clay into easy-to-work soil and retards wind and water erosion by increasing the water-absorption properties of wornout land, will be introduced in Canada about mid-June by Canadian Industries Limited, it was announced here today.

Having as its active ingredient the chemical, sodium polyacrylate, it will be marketed under the trade name "Loxar".

According to G. R. Snyder, soil chemist of C-I-L's agricultural chemicals department, "Loxar" can change the mechanical structure of poor soils such as clay from a hard-packing mass into a crumbly material which permits water and air to filter down to plant roots in a sieve-like action. This gives roots a chance to breathe and makes nutrients in the soil more available to the plant.

Explaining the action of the chemical, Mr. Snyder said that good soil structure depends on the arrangement of soil particles. Good soils consist of small granules ranging in size from pin heads to peas. These granules are formed by natural soil-binding gums which "glue" the particles together.

The gums are a minor by-product of the decomposition of manures, composts, plant and other organic matter. Normally, this action does not supply enough natural gums to constantly cultivated soils. Through use, they also break down and are decomposed by soil bacteria and require replacement.

"Loxar", Mr. Snyder said, replaces natural gums after they have been exhausted. One pound of the chemical will have as beneficial an effect on soil structure as 100 to 1,000 pounds of any of the humus-type materials. It will be most useful on heavy clay and alkaline soils, loams and sandy loams which have been depleted of their organic content.

The soil conditioner comes in a dry ready-to-use form. One pound is sufficient to treat 100 square feet of soil, said Mr. Snyder. Before it is applied, the land should be dry and in a prepared state for seeding. After it is spread, the conditioner should be well worked into the soil. Most of the stabilizing or binding effect of the soil conditioner takes place within 24 hours of treatment and during this period the soil should not be worked.

Only limited quantities of the soil chemical will be available this year. It is being recommended for use in flower and vegetable gardens, for preparing seed beds for new lawns and renovating bare patches in old lawns, for window box, greenhouse and market garden soils. It will also stabilize exposed soil surfaces on baseball diamonds, clay tennis courts, football and other playing fields.

But Mr. Snyder foresaw a future for chemical soil conditioners in the rejuvenation of worn-out farm lands and erosion control. "In Canada alone," he said, "there are at least 25,000,000 acres of land which can stand vast improvement. By the use of soil conditioners, we can play an important role in increasing the world's food supply."

U.S. Leader Critical of Co-Op Education

What many U.S. co-ops call "education" turns out on examination to be sales promotion, claims Dr. Frank Robotka, research professor of agricultural economics at Iowa State College. Dr. Robotka made his assertion when reporting the results of a recent inquiry into what farm co-op members know and think about their organizations.

Dr. Robotka defined "propaganda" as leading people, while "education" is teaching them to think so that they act for themselves.

As a result of this lack of basic education, this educator claims that members are losing actual control of their cooperatives. "Many co-ops are run by little cliques at the top, who consider that they are the only ones who know anything. The members are uninformed and uninterested, so they let the clique do it for them.

"When I attend a co-op meeting where people cuss the manager or the directors, I am glad. That shows the membership is alive to its obligations and eager to be informed. The same goes for meetings where special committees are named to study this or that idea or project, he added.

Tractor Tips

Now that tractors have taken the place of horses on so many farms, it is well to remember that tractors, too, can be dangerous, and that a few precautions, taken at the right time, can be very much in order. For instance, consider the following rules:

1. Be sure the tractor is not in gear when starting.
2. Drive carefully; tractors were not meant to be racing vehicles.
3. Never allow extra riders on tractors.
4. Do not refuel or work on tractor while it is running or extremely hot.
5. Avoid wearing loose, hanging clothing while operating the tractor.
6. Be careful when coupling implements to the tractor.
7. Keep power line shield in place; stop power take-off before dismounting.

Tractor efficiency can be assured by thorough and timely lubrication, by a complete spring checkup, by avoiding overloading at high speeds, and by selecting the proper size of tractor for the job.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
Department of Agriculture*

Ormstown Starts Off The Season



There was a machine for every purpose.

Ormstown always starts off the show season with its spring fair, and if this a sample of what other fairs this year will be, Eastern Canada should be in for a pretty good series of exhibitions. A well-run show, with everything possible done to make things easy and interesting for both exhibitors and spectators, good exhibits in all the classes, and something doing every minute, made Ormstown a show well worth attending and we look to see this fair add to its popularity in each succeeding year. They really know how to run a show down there.

This is a farmers' show, and the industrial exhibits are not necessarily as numerous here as at some other places. But the display of farm machinery was a really outstanding one; by far the largest ever at Ormstown, and certainly more complete than will be seen except at the largest exhibitions. Of course, with summer work in full swing, there is a great interest in farm machinery at this time of year, and the manufacturers took good advantage of this fact. There was something for every conceivable type of job, and we can imagine that a number of people were figuring out how ways and means of adding some of the newer machines to their inventories.

Spectator attendance was down somewhat; and the weather probably had as much to do with this as anything. Early in the early days of the fair, many farmers made the best of the clear skies to get ahead with delayed planting, while the Friday and Saturday rains did just as effective

a job of keeping some people away. But as for the livestock, while some of the usual Holstein herds were not out, and the individual classes were relatively small, the Ayrshire and Canadians were out in the biggest numbers ever seen since the war. Light horse classes accounted for 140 entries as against 92 last year, and in all, not counting horses, there were 450 cattle on the grounds.

Juniors Have Good Show

Junior work is getting more and more attention at our local fairs, which is a step in the right direction, and Ormstown is not lagging behind anyone in this department. There were something like 100 calves in the junior classes, and, operating under their new 4-H Club emblems, the juniors took over on the final day of the fair for the showmanship competitions. Champion showman was a girl, Jeanette Vaillancourt of St. Chrysostome, who won out over Bernice Ness by a hair's breadth. Ronald Duncan of Ormstown and Kenneth Roy of Howick placed third and fourth.

The junior judging contest was one of the largest ever, and here again the girls paced the field. In first place came Bernice Ness with Patricia Irving close behind (both girls are students at Macdonald College, by the way), and Miss Irving was awarded the Family Herald Trophy. Kiwanis awards were won by Raymond Smith, Hazel Elliot, Lyndon Hooker and Milton Hooker.



The Women's Institute had a booth at the Ormstown Fair. In charge, left to right, are Mrs. R. J. Blair, Mrs. James Bruce, Mrs. C. Waller and Mrs. O. H. Trainer.

Livestock Judging

One of the biggest exhibits of Canadiens ever seen at Ormstown brought out over 80 head of real top-notch animals, all well fitted and shown, and judged by J. P. Fleury with top honours going to J. A. Sylvestre, for senior and grand champion male, junior champion male and female. Reserve senior and grand ribbons went to H. Charpentier and R. Desautels of Richelieu had the other tops.

Ayrshires put on a really outstanding show with well filled classes for the most part. The group classes were well worth seeing; R. R. Ness & Sons took the coveted first place for graded herd, dairy herd and junior get of sire, with P. D. McArthur taking senior get and progeny of dam. Another feature in the group was the exhibit of the Howick-Huntingdon club, where exhibitors who had not won championships at the Royal could enter. Grant Whyte edged out Earle Ness in this event, in a field of ten entries.

The senior and grand champion bull was McArthur's Cherry Bank Golden Anchor, grand champion at last fall's Royal. J. P. Bradley (the only non-local exhibitor), had the reserve. R. R. Ness & Sons had Burnside Tradition for junior male, and Royal View Golden Comet carried the reserve junior ribbon for Russell Logan.

In females, Ness had the senior and grand champion, Burnside Florodora and the junior, Burnside Full Fashion, as well as Burnside Amelia for reserve. McArthur had the reserve senior and grand on Poplar Alley Blossom Baroness. Wm. Gibson, Spencer, Mass, was the judge, and had no easy time making his placings with so much uniformity to contend with. However, he managed to get all the classes judged the same day.

Holsteins had a disappointing turnout. Hermas Lajoie, their energetic fieldman, had made a point, at the last annual meeting of the association, of the poor showing Holstein breeders were making at fairs, and had urged them to come out for the good of the breed, if for nothing else. There were at least four new Holstein exhibitors



This photo was taken early in the day, before the crowds arrived to watch the judging.



The display of handwork by the school pupils was outstanding.

at Ormstown this year, but some of the regulars, such as Gladu and Glen Ayearst, did not come, and the 90 head out made a much smaller show that seems justified.

Douglas Glover, a new exhibitor at Ormstown, had the reserve senior and grand champion male, Cloverside R.A. Successor. The senior and grand award went to W. K. McRae & Son, Howick, Raymondale Beaudax, Raymondale Farms, was junior champion, and W. S. Cullen of Ormstown had the reserve junior on Duke Raymondale Lauriston.

In females, the top awards went to W. K. McRae, senior and grand on Garrymede Connie Pabst; to J. J. Murphy, reserve senior and grand on Southview Francy Babs; to Donald Hooker, junior championship on Derryvale Helena and to J. R. MacDonald & Sons of Huntingdon, reserve junior on Glen Urquhart Dale.

J. J. Murphy took two of the group awards, for the dairy herd and the senior get of sire. McRae had the best graded herd, and Mrs. B. M. Hallward took the progeny of dam class.

The Jersey show was not quite as large as last year, but there were some exceedingly good animals out. Pierre Veillon of Sweetsburg dominated all the classes, with wins in all the championship events except reserve junior female, which was taken by Honeyholm Star for W. T. MacEwen & Sons of Ormstown.

Sheep and Hogs

The sheep and swine show was not strikingly different from previous ones; about the same number of animals were in the pens, and there were no new exhibitors. The regular breeds of sheep were on show, with two exhibitors in each breed except Cheviots, (Slack Bros. had no competition here) and Suffolks, which were shown only by Dougall Cumming. The judge was Prof. L. H. Hamilton.

Both Shropshire championships went to Slack Bros. Dougall Cumming and W. E. Burton had the champion ram and champion ewe in Leicesters. Burton also had the champion Oxford ewe, and H. Skinner the ram. R. B.

Glaspell of Cowansville had the top Hampshires.

In the good swine show Vic Pelchat of Montreal was judge and again Hooker Brothers of Ormstown was a big winner. L. A. Sylvestre was also well up. In York-

shire boars Hooker won first with W. E. Burton taking the next two places. Both exhibitors shared honors in the sow classes and in the pens Hooker was first with Burton second and third.

Lachute Fair Is Still Growing



Horse lovers always find something to admire at Lachute.

Lachute Fair depends to a very great extent on the weather for its success; with an outdoor judging ring, which is ideal when the sun shines, several days of rain could easily disrupt the livestock show completely. But this time the weather co-operated fully; every day was beautiful, with the result that attendance records set up in previous years went by the board. And there was a good show to see. As usual, the livestock pretty well filled the barns (the Ayrshire show, with over 170 head out, was the largest ever seen at Lachute), the poultry show overflowed the cages that had been prepared, there were three herds of Guernseys for the first classes for this breed at this fair, and there were good exhibits of Jerseys and beef cattle. Holsteins were down a bit in numbers, as they were at Ormstown the previous week.

The directors of the fair have done a lot to spruce up the grounds. The buildings were gleaming with new white paint, the midway had been moved out of the way, into the field formerly used for car parking; the race track has been re-surfaced and many of the roads have been paved, all of which made it easier to get around. There was a good programme of harness racing, and the grandstand show attracted full stands for all the afternoon and evening performances. The removal of several of the horse stables near the entrance has helped the appearance of the place and makes traffic easier to control.

The farm machinery exhibit was very complete, and there was much interest in the demonstrations of motor-driven saws, of which there were a number of models on

display. The log-loading equipment and the forest conservation booth also attracted many spectators, many of whom were heard to wonder how long the speckled trout that were swimming around in the big tank would survive the heat.

There is something about the Lachute Fair that sets it aside. Perhaps it is its size; it is a good big show, but everybody seems to know everybody else and to be having a real good time. The way it is run has a lot to do with its popularity; there is something doing all the time, but nobody seems to be rushing around "Getting things done" at the last minute, which is, after all, a proof of good organization. The animals come out for their classes on time and no one has to wait around for things to happen.

Friday was the big day as far as the dairy cattle classes were concerned, with Ayrshire and Holstein judging going on at the same time in the ring under the trees. The Ayrshire show was the biggest Lachute has ever put on; including the animals in the group classes, there were 200 head on the grounds. The herds of P. D. McArthur and of Bruce Bros. of Spencerville were new to the Lachute ring, and most of the regular exhibitors were back again this year.

Championships in this breed did not differ particularly from those awarded at Ormstown; both the senior and grand championships were repeats of the Ormstown judging with Cherry Bank Golden Anchor being senior and grand champion bull for P. D. McArthur and Burnside Floradora being Ness' champion female. J. P. Bradley repeated his Ormstown win in the reserve senior and grand bull class with Carnell Lawrence and the reserve female was Glengarry Wonderful, owned by J. P. Bradley, which did not get into the championship class the week before. The junior champion bull was Cumming Bros'. Glengarry Pride's Burton, and Erskine McOuat had the reserve on Brooklea Brown Bomber.

The group classes were well balanced, Ness winning the senior get of sire, and the junior herd, McArthur taking the graded herd and progeny of dam, with junior get of sire going to Cumming Bros.

The Holsteins were down in numbers again at Lachute from last year's figures, but there were nine exhibitors in this breed nevertheless. Percy Allen took the senior and grand bull champion with Julius of Bonnie Brig, and Albert D'Aoust had the reserve. D'Aoust also had the senior and grand champion female. The junior bull



The outdoor ring is fine when the weather co-operates.

championship was taken by Paul St. Jacques with De Lile D. O. Rocket Jay, and R. L. Allen had Lochinvar Lad De Kol for reserve. Harold Wilson had the Reserve senior and grand female, and junior and reserve junior females championships. Wilson also placed well in the group classes, with wins in senior get of sire, junior get, and junior herd. D'Aoust had the only entry in the graded herd class, and J. A. Meyer led a class of five in progeny of dam.

Three herds of Jerseys came out, one, that of S. G. Patterson, for the first time. North River Farm and R. H. McElroy were the other exhibitors. North River Farm had the senior and grand championships in both sexes, Patterson reserve junior male and junior female, and McElroy took the other ribbons. McElroy also won four of the group classes, with Patterson taking junior get.

Guernseys, showing for the first time at this fair, were exhibited by J. A. Billingham, Remi St. Jacques and James M. Brown. As might be expected, the classes were small, but at least it is a start in a new breed. James Brown's entries took most of the top honours, but St. Jacques had the reserve senior and grand champion male, and Billingham the reserve senior and grand female.

Two herds of dual purpose Shorthorns, those of A. D. McGibbon and Kilwin Farms, were out, and Tutira Farms and Kilwin Farms showed Shorthorns. Kilwin and McGibbon split the prize money with six wins each, and in the Shorthorns classes Tutira Farms took 7 to Kilwin's 4. Netherdale Farm had the only Herefords and North River Farm the only Angus cattle.

Purebred heavy horse classes were not large, no one class having more than four entries, but classes of 8 to 10 were out in grade heavy horses. Sheep and swine entries were restricted; Yorkshires dominated the swine classes, and sheep classes were relatively light, with not more than three exhibitors of any one breed, though all the standard breeds were represented.

Junior Show

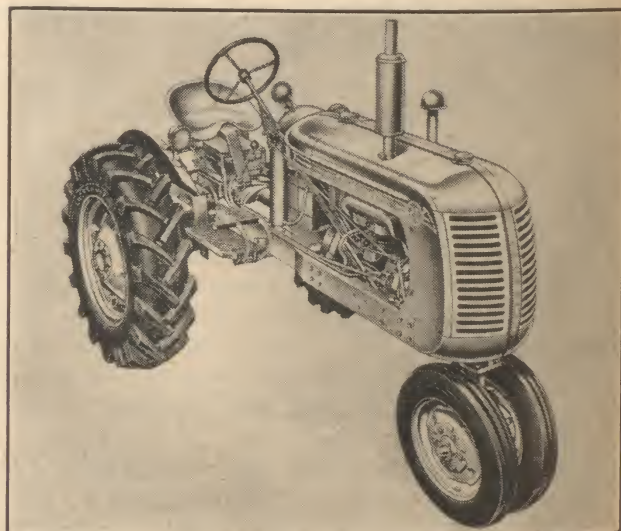
Saturday morning saw the biggest turn-out of juniors yet recorded; it is evident that the interest in junior work is keen in this part of the country. There were over 170 boys and girls in the various events, and almost 60 calves were on the grounds. Don Robertson is doing a good job in this department, and at Lachute he gets a lot of help from veteran agronomer Alex Bothwell, who has more time to devote to this phase of the work now that he has given up the job of Secretary of the fair.

Donald MacLennan and Patricia Irving topped the Ayrshire and Holstein judging classes respectively, and junior and senior champion showmen were Ross Roger and Rexford Griffith. Winners of the Kiwanis Awards were Edward Godin, Gilles Patry, Jean Dumouchel and Edgar Russell.

Owners of smaller farms, frequently faced with the choice of investing in a tractor which is not quite big enough, or one that is a little too big, may find just what they need in the new "in between size" Cockshutt 20. This tractor has been specifically designed to meet the growing demand from a large number of Canadian and American farmers for a low-priced tractor sized between medium and small.

It is powered by a heavy-duty 4-cylinder engine with a four speed transmission (four forward, one reverse) and is available in standard and row-crop models. It includes many of the special features the modern farmer has learned to look for in big tractors.

All the controls are mounted on the steering post. Clearance is high, turning radius is short and front and rear wheel widths are readily adjustable. Standard equipment includes belt-pulley and power take-off drive, and a fast-acting hydraulic control system, for all types of mounted or drawn implements, is available as an extra.



Veterinary School To Have New Quarters

The Veterinary School is to have a permanent home at last, and work on the new construction has already started at St. Hyacinthe. Supervising the construction is a committee named by the provincial government, which includes Messrs. Rene Trepanier, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Gustave Labelle, Director of the School, Luc Desilets, Associate Attorney General, and Andre Houde of the Finance Department.

The first sod was turned on June 5th at a ceremony attended by these gentlemen and the Minister of Agriculture, Laurent Barre.

The Veterinary School, which was founded in 1875, has been searching for permanent quarters for a long time. It was first located on Craig Street in Montreal, then moved to the University of Montreal. It was next located at the corner of St. Hubert and Demontigny

Streets in Montreal, then went to Oka, and finally moved into Army quarters at St. Hyacinthe. In its permanent quarters the School will be able to provide lecture and laboratory instruction of a quality never before possible.

Mr. Barre emphasized the need of qualified veterinarians in this province, where livestock farming plays such an important part in the rural economy, and promised that every effort would be made to have the buildings completed in the shortest possible time.

Others present at the sod-turning ceremonies included J. E. I. Chartier, M.P.P. for St. Hyacinthe, F. D. Johnson, M.P.P. for Bagot, R. Bernard, M.P.P. for Drummond, Mayor Ernest Picard and members of the St. Hyacinthe Municipal Council, Father Fiset, the parish priest, Dr. J. N. Veilleux, president of the College of Veterinary Surgeons of the Province of Quebec.

Quebec Forums Meet on Farm Day

Down in Vermont they are famous for maple syrup but we know now they are equally famous for their 'greener pastures' program. One of the big instruments in this grass program is the work done by Lester H. Smith, Extension Agronomist from the University of Vermont.

Those attending the morning Farm Day program at Macdonald College on June 21 had the good fortune to hear Mr. Smith speak on the subject of "Better Returns from Your Grasslands." His talk was illustrated with slides. "The program as developed in Vermont," stated Mr. Smith, "includes selection of the land for pasture (choose the best); lime and fertilizer in proper quantity; and management of the pasture (rotate the grazing, clip coarse grass, plant long-lived productive legumes and grasses.)"

The slides showed what was being done in Vermont — shots of grass silage, production, stands of ladino and birds foot trefoil, rocky unimproved pastures and improved productive meadows. In short it was a practical, down to earth talk on a very important subject, especially to Quebec farmers. There were no scenes of Vermont 'green pasture' improvement that could not be duplicated here in Quebec. Mr. Smith did mention that their state-aided fertilizer and lime program paid off in the applications being made on Vermont farms. "There is nothing like lime and fertilizer to give your stand a kick-off start to real production," said Mr. Smith.

Delegates from all over the province attended the Farm Forum meeting held in the assembly hall. They heard Neil F. Creller, 1951-52 Quebec Farm Forum President, point out that the Farm Forums in Quebec, while smaller in numbers this past season, were unusually active in many respects. President Creller outlined the activities

of the Livestock and Coarse Grain Provincial Committees. "However," stated Mr. Creller, "we must realize that Farm Forum is up against a very serious problem. We can't go on forever losing membership without doing something about it." Mr. Creller called on the Forum membership to do a bit of self-criticism in their local forums — to find the weak spots in the organization — and do something about them.

Mrs. Gilbert Telford of Shawville, newly elected President for the 1952-53 season, acted as chairman of the meeting.

It was reported that 295 persons registered before noon at the registration desks. Estimations place the Farm Day crowd at 350.

Farmers Should Co-operate With Experimental Farms

Closer contacts between farmer's associations and federal experimental farms were suggested recently by Dr. H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Dr. Hannam explained that the role of such committees established on a regional basis should be consultative rather than advisory and that they should function as a two-way proposition for the mutual benefit of farmers and research workers. He considers them as an appropriate medium for carrying farmers' suggestions to the experimental farm staffs as well as a useful instrument in filling the gap between advanced agricultural research and farm practices. Relations between organized agriculture and experimental farms have always been friendly, he added, but any move enabling research and practice to work closer together would be welcome from farmers' associations throughout the country.

Veterinary Topics

by D. G. Dale, D.V.M.

Readers will probably note that there has once again been a change made in the title of this column. As you have no doubt read in another section of this journal, the author of the veterinary articles that appeared from September 1951 to April 1952, passed away on May 22nd.

Dr. Swales was a man of great energy, and his contribution to veterinary medicine in both the scientific and practical fields will remain as a monument to his memory for years to come. He was probably best known to the farmers of Eastern Canada for his work with internal parasites of sheep, coccidiosis of chickens and blackhead of turkeys. In these fields he was considered as Canada's foremost authority. His passing was indeed a great loss to the Federal Department of Agriculture, Macdonald College, and the agricultural industry as a whole.

It is hoped that we will be able to continue this column along somewhat similar lines as in the past. The thought has occurred to us that some of you may have particular problems from time to time that you would like to see discussed in this article. We, of course, do not want to change the column into strictly a questions and answers type of feature, but if any of you have animal disease problems that you think may be of interest to others, if discussed in an article, please let us know.

Problems of the Pasture Season

Many of the disease problems that have been winter headaches tend to disappear as the stock is moved out onto pasture. The hacking cough that has bothered many of the young calves in the calfpens may well be expected to clear up when they are

turned out into a small paddock near the barn. If there happens to be a spot containing a few shade trees, that is probably the ideal place for the young calves. Many of those heifers that did not seem to come into heat during the winter will probably start coming in regularly now, and other dairy cattle breeding problems are usually found to be less numerous.

The pasture season does bring some problems, however. We hope you remembered to have all your young cattle vaccinated against Blackleg before turning them out, if not it would be well to have it done now. The loss of just one yearling would pay for the vaccinating of a lot of cattle for a good many years. Remember to ask your veterinarian to use one of the newer Blackleg vaccines that protect against all three organisms that can cause Blackleg or similar pasture disease.

Last year foot-rot of cattle was a severe problem on many farms. We can't offer to immunize your stock against this disease, as no effective vaccine has been developed as yet. We can, however, offer a few suggestions that may help to keep the incidence of infection down. The bacterium that causes foot-rot in cattle and sheep is capable of living apart from the animal body in the soil. It thrives best in the clay mud as found around water holes, swamp areas, creek beds, etc. The usual story of the condition is that the cow suffers a minor injury to the skin between the toes or just above the heel. She subsequently walks through the mud containing the causative bacteria, and they are then able to invade the tissues of the foot. The pain caused by this disease is indeed intense, and is probably the main reason why the animal quits grazing. When the animal goes off food, of course, her milk production or meat

production, as the case may be, falls off sharply, and that's where you start to lose money. Prompt and efficient treatment using antibiotics or certain of the sulfonamides usually brings these animals back to a paying basis very rapidly. Neglected cases often terminate as chronic joint infections, cripples, and occasionally in the loss of the animal. Do not neglect a lame animal, call your veterinarian in early when he can do you the most good. As we mentioned, there are no preventive "shots" that can be given against this disease, but there are a few things you can do if the condition becomes a real problem on your farm. Fencing off the low areas in the pastures will prevent the animals from getting into the mud that harbours the organism. Lessening the chance of accidental injury to the foot tissues by cleaning up barbed wire, pieces of metal, sharp stones, etc. around the lane to the pasture fields will also help to prevent the disease. Most important of all is the temporary confinement of an affected animal. She should be kept in a box stall, or in a small dry paddock near the barn until she has recovered. This is important for two reasons. Trying to keep up with the rest of the herd, and the twice daily walk up and down the lanes in definitely very painful to the cow and lengthens the recovery time. Secondly there is the fact that if the infected animal walks back through the mud, the discharge from the sore between her toes is once again contaminating the mud-holes with the organism. This means, of course, that the chance of the disease spreading to other members of the herd is increased.

Cheese is one of our most versatile foods, fitting into a very large number of recipes and serving equally well as a main dish, snack or dessert. One ounce of cheese provides as much food value as a glass of milk. In addition, it is one of Canada's important products.

Strippings

by Gordon W. Geddes

What a spring! It must have set a record for continued bad weather. There were a few good days very early when the ground could have been worked. However, on our own land, the seed would have been wasted since it turned so cold and wet. Our dry field went in the 24th of May. It could have been done before but we hoped to sow it all at once to be ready for a combine. Then it got so all we hoped for was to sow any time and any way. May 29th we got another field in. On June 10th we got in another one, finishing in the rain. It was the 13th when we finished what was supposed to be grain. On the 18th I seeded the last little piece in the pasture by going without my supper until 7.30. The next day we had rain again.

It was the fear of such a year which helped to keep me from getting a tractor before as we had sowed in the mud two other years with the horses. So when we traded horses for a tractor last fall, I rather anticipated a wet spring. However, we were looking for a used tractor and it happened to be one with very big tires that we found. So we still do not feel that we would have been as well off with the horses even this year. We could harrow with the tractor before the ground was fit to harrow (which was how we had to do it) and go much faster than the horses could. If it was fine a short time we could get over a field fast and dry it off enough to seed before the next drenching. It would have been a bad year to depend on a hired tractor as it would have been needed several times and just when the right day came. Our experience with hiring small tired tractors has been that they couldn't go at all when it was wet. Of course one shouldn't work then anyway but sometimes it is a choice between seeding then or not at all. Another disadvantage in hiring a tractor this year is that the driver

needed to be well acquainted with the fields to know what direction to be going in the soft spots. Even then I buried my tractor three times in one field before I found out. I was able to get out myself and later harrowed most of the same places by changing direction. But it takes a lot of gas on such going. Often one must go twice as far to get in the right place to do a bad spot.

We did get definitely stuck in the mud when we put on too big a load of sawdust. The sawdust was heavy and the wagon dropped right in as soon as we moved it. Even a second tractor wouldn't bring it out without unloading. After we got on the main road, we still had too big a load and broke our rack and burst a tire. That time we had to unload it all.

We expected a lot of grass this spring as we had fertilized so much pasture but we haven't as much as last spring. We did mow three acres the 16th, a week later than last year. But the weather wouldn't let us get it. When it did clear up for a day with a prediction of rain to follow, we went and put part of it on tripods. One load did get dry enough to put in the barn at the finish. It was our first experience with tripods and we did not find it as difficult as we expected. We didn't follow the usual practice as we wanted the field to pasture. We loaded the hay and put it on the tripods from the load in a different location. Unloading was slower of course but we were getting hay which we couldn't have had any other way. We should not hesitate to try it again if the weather was bad after the silo was filled. It would go slowly but it does anyway you hay in bad weather and you might get hay for your labour that way instead of bedding. After all that is what counts. Saving labour doesn't do any good if you lose the value of your hay.

As a result of the bad weather we did do a little clean-up work in the plowed fields that was intended for next fall. A brushy stone pile was left in one field after we drew about

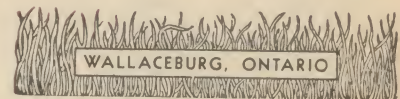
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a hundred loads of stone away three years ago. We planned to get that before we seeded down again and now it is gone where it won't bother us again. Some of the neighbours say we have more advantages than we realize in having plenty of room to dispose of rocks easily. Probably it is so and I should hate to think that we should ever pick enough rocks to fill up all the gullies. We hope that we are beginning to run out of rocks to some extent which would be a welcome scarcity.

This year a lot of our ladino clover seemed to disappear, as it sometimes does. When it is good it is so good that we miss it a lot when it leaves. But the field is still usually better pasture than it was before it was improved. This spring we are trying some of the newer strain of birdsfoot trefoil to see what it will do for pasture. It is deeper rooted than the ladino and might be better for it though it is slow to get going.

As for going, I have been doing a lot of that the past week as enumerator for the local poll. The job could not be referred to as a political plum since the pay scale dates back to pre-inflation days and there never has been an enumerators' union formed to strike for higher pay. For that matter, I hope there never is as we have enough strikes already.



THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes
and to matters of interest to them*



Fifteen members of the Windsor Mills W.I. who were guests of "La Tribune" and radio stations CHLT and CKTS in Sherbrooke on May 6th.

Love, Food and Water

by Anne Leggett

A prominent educator recently remarked that to stimulate the public interest one should arouse their curiosity — hence the first word in the title of my article "LOVE".

You hardly expect to come across a story on "Love" in a farm journal, but I hope the word will draw a little attention to the idea I want to stress, especially to the members of our organization.

Love and lots of it, in the true sense of the word, is most essential to life; the more you can give, the more fully you can live.

At the closing meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, held in North Hatley this spring, strong criticism of the modern practice of artificial feeding of babies was made. It was a dentist who spoke, but as I read, I could not help thinking of a friend who voiced his opinion that part of the cause of war was not enough love in the world, and said "It is caused by bottle fed babies". To a number of people this may appear to be rather a strong statement and some will say this might be attributed to the minority. May I illustrate it this way; it is not for me to question the practices of modern "baby feeding", the point I wish to make clear is the maternal love and security which only a mother can give by constant attention and self-sacrifice.

My recommendation for childless couples, who are blessed with strong maternal and paternal instincts, is to become foster-parents of those homeless orphans from our

Protestant Homes and bestow on them the blessing of loving care and that sense of security which will be rewarded a hundredfold. The world of to-day with its international problems and chaotic state needs more love to keep it on an even keel. It's up to the women to lead the way.

Food — so many of us raise funds for our church and clubs by organizing suppers, banquets, etc. and it is on this subject that I wish to impart a word of warning at the commencement of the summer season on the dangers of food or ptomaine poisoning.

Room temperature is fatal during the warm summer months, for any large quantities of food, without refrigeration. Over 40 women were hospitalized after eating turkey salad at a luncheon. Investigation proved that the turkey was roasted on a Saturday, cut up on Sunday and eaten on Monday. During this period of time, it had been allowed to stand at room temperature, a perfect breeding place of the common Staphylococcus germ, which causes deathly sickness. Another offender was baked ham. It was cooked on Thursday, but allowed to stand unrefrigerated until Sunday. It, combined with potato salad, made the day before, and refrigerated over-night, but made in such large quantities that the centre was never adequately cooled, offered a perfect breeding ground for the above germ, thereby causing over 100 persons to be hospitalized. Science proves that all meats should be refrigerated, whether smoked or not.

Ice Cream can be another source of food-poisoning. We should be on our toes to see that all public eating places are kept strictly clean. We should all insist on health regulations, cleanliness, being enforced, which will not only help ourselves, but contribute greatly in maintaining the country's health record and stamping out illness by food poisoning.

Water — At our Board meeting in January, Mrs. Ellard stressed the need for enforcing regulations regarding the polluting of streams and reservoirs.

Water is something we cannot do without. Some of us are fortunate enough to have pure spring water or a good supply from wells. Others have to rely on water supplied by their town or village waterworks. Whatever

its source we should all be mindful of the fact that water can be so easily polluted, causing dysentery and other forms of sickness. Therefore, we should ensure more than a passing interest in seeing to it that our water supply is pure to safeguard our health.

It is pleasing and encouraging to note from W.I. news that members are being appointed on Town Councils and School Boards. That is where we can find out how municipal affairs are run. This is the source to keep in touch with, where you can air your complaints and submit your constructive ideas.

In conclusion, may I hope that you will find some small item of interest and last, but not least —

Pray a little more — laugh a little more — and love more.

The Month With The W.I.



This is the part of the sewing class at Scotstown, April 21 to May 2.

County annual meetings were under way when these reports were received. A busy month was put in by the various members of the executive as they attended them and discussed items of provincial interest, a contact of benefit to everyone — including the visitor.

This was also the month when branches hold the customary sale or exchange of slips, bulbs, etc., the country woman's neighbourly sharing of the good things of her garden.

Arundel: Arundel had Mrs. H. Cavil as guest speaker. Her subject was "Woman's Place in the World of To-day". An afghan and quilt are to be auctioned at a bazaar, proceeds for W.I. work. Brownsburg had a course in weaving, Miss Bruneau instructing. Mr. M. Wilson of the Canadian International Paper Co., gave a talk on "What is a Forester and What is His Work", and showed a film "In Partnership with Nature". Frontier entertained Brownsburg W.I. when two films on Conservation were shown. \$10 was voted to school fair work. Jerusalem-Bethany heard a paper on "Home Economics" and held a contest. Lachute had as guest speaker, Mrs. Istvanffy, who spoke on "Emotional Health". A film was shown. Lakefield's guest speaker was

Mr. K. Russell, Agriculture teacher, whose topic was "School Fairs in the Community". Mille Isles are making a quilt which is to be sold to augment branch funds. At Pioneer Mr. Russell gave a talk on "Agriculture". Upper Lachute and East End voted \$10 for school fair work and \$5 to the Cancer Society.

Bonaventure: Black Cape heard a talk on "Vegetables and Flowers" by Mrs. Mitchel Fairservice. At Grand Cascapedia Mr. Allain spoke on "The Planting of Apple Trees" and "The Care of Calves for Beef Production and Breeding Purposes". An old photograph contest was won by Mrs. B. A. Woodman. Marcil heard a talk on the sewing course at Macdonald College and an instructive demonstration on making button holes was given by Mrs. John Walker. New Carlisle members expressed their approval of the pooling of fares for those attending the annual provincial convention. Exhibits from the sewing class are to be sent to the Handicraft Exhibit held at the College during the convention. A talk on "Rheumatic Fever" was given. New Richmond held a successful afternoon tea and food sale. Mr. Allain discussed the planting and culture of apple trees best suited to this district. Port Daniel made plans for celebrating their 30th anniversary. (We hope there will be pictures. Congratulations!) Mrs. Lauder Sweetman was presented with a life membership and a parcel post sale netted \$18.40 for the treasury. At Restigouche Mrs. Earl Fitzgerald gave a talk on "Bacille Calmette Guerin", and distributed pamphlets. A tea and sale was highly successful. This branch entertained the 30th annual convention of Bonaventure County W.I. Shigawake heard a talk on "Pasteurization of Milk", and Mrs. Almond Hayes gave a talk on "Conservation of Soil".

Chat.-Huntingdon: Aubrey-Riverfield had a busy meeting. The sale of plants here netted \$5.65. Dundee heard a paper by Mrs. J. Platt on "Growing Raspberries".



Charter members of the Scotstown W.I.

A card party was most successful. Franklin Centre gained much information from Mrs. Alex Robb, County treasurer, when she spoke on Institute work, and Mrs. J. D. Lang gave a talk on "Gardening". The County president, Mrs. W. E. Bernhardt, Athelstan, spoke on "Making the most of our Opportunities", followed by a demonstration of painting on cloth; she showed many examples of this work. Another enjoyable demonstration was on rugmaking, given by Mrs. A. W. Perkins, Huntingdon. At Howick a talk on "The Culture of Spring Bulbs" was given by Mrs. A. McKell. Donations of \$10 to the Red Cross and \$5 to Save the Children were given. Huntingdon donated \$25 to the Agricultural Society for special prizes at Huntingdon Fair and material for drapes to be used for a lounge or sitting room was given to the Domestic Science students of the school. Miss Heikinen, their teacher, gave a talk on "An Excuse for Short Cuts". At Ormstown Mrs. John Campbell spoke on her trip to the Southern States and Mrs. Charles Moe on her trip to British Columbia. During the past year all branches in this county have contributed \$93 to the Barrie Memorial Hospital.

Compton: Bury had a guest speaker, Mr. D. MacMillan, whose subject was "How to Improve our Gardens". A \$100 bond has been purchased. Boxes were sent to Bury boys now overseas and the Welfare & Health convenor read a letter of thanks from refugees to whom clothing had been sent through Save the Children. Clothing has also been given a needy family. Bury Juniors have received their sweaters. Mrs. Fraser was the special speaker, her topic being "Good Grooming". A progressive dinner was held. Mrs. Tarrant has been appointed Junior Counsellor for this group. Cookshire realized \$100 from their bridge marathon, which was divided evenly between the school and a relief fund. "Montana", and "The Rights and Privileges of Canadians" were subjects of talks and Mrs. Kirby discussed "B.C.C. Vaccination". Maple sugar was sent to a W.I. in England. Canterbury entertained the annual convention. A successful sewing course was held, Miss Campbell instructing, and articles were brought in for the exhibit. The travelling basket was started on its way. East Clifton

received an interesting letter from a refugee in Palestine who had received clothing sent through Save the Children. The annual school fair was planned. Sawyerville received a thank-you letter from a W.I. in England. An agricultural contest was held. Scotstown sent two parcels to members visiting in England and a "Dorothy" bag was received from a lady in Scotland to whom a food parcel had been sent. A W.I. sewing class had been held with 14 members enrolled.

Gaspe: L'Anse Aux Cousins discussed "What form of publicity can be used for the W.I.?" Sandy Beach sponsored a parcel post sale which netted \$24.75. Wakeham made plans for starting a library, books to be obtained from the Travelling Libraries, Macdonald College. A riddle guessing contest was featured. York members brought articles for the overseas parcel. A paper, "What Not To Do in a Thunderstorm", was read and the Sunshine committee reported on hospital work.

Gatineau: Aylmer entertained the annual county meeting which Mrs. G. E. LeBaron, Q.W.I. president, attended. Two W.I. members from the Isle of Man, Miss M. Groves and Mrs. Teare, were interested observers of a Canadian W.I. in action. Miss Groves stated that a W.I. had recently been organized on her home island, Peel W.I. Aylmer East catered to the Masonic Bowling League and put on two Minstrel Shows, both profitable ventures. Breckenridge heard a talk on "Schools are for Schooling", given by Mrs. Fred Lusk, a former teacher and W.I. member for over 40 years. Talks on "Citizenship", "How to Save Housekeeping Costs", and "The Twentieth Century Belongs to Canada", were also heard. Eardley realized \$90.50 from catering at an auction. Judging was done and prizes awarded on "Household Hint Scrap Books", and prizes were given for cookbooks. Mrs. Amm conducted a "PI" contest. Cotton was sent to the Cancer Society and the food parcel overseas. Rupert heard a reading on "The Life of King George VI". Plans for the annual memorial service at the Rupert Union Cemetery were made. A contest on gardening was won by a visiting member from Wakefield and a paper.

This is why the Wakeham W.I. cancelled the February meeting. "We were simply buried in snow," writes their Publicity Convenor, Mrs. Patterson. "We have not had a winter like it for a good many years."



"A Look at Country Homes" was read by the convenor of Agriculture. Wakefield heard a paper, "The Planting and Care of Trees and Shrubs". A thank you letter for gift to the mother of the first baby born in the Gatineau Memorial Hospital was read. Incomplete returns of Red Cross contributions, under the sponsorship of the W.I., show donations amounting to \$358. Wright made a donation toward the gift of electrical equipment from Canadian women to Lady Alexander. The Convenor of Agriculture discussed gardening hints. A flower contest with prizes was featured and prizes, grey trout, were awarded to the winners of the "Lucky Number" game.

Jacques Cartier: Ste. Annes has been having a smocking class under the direction of Mrs. Little, a W.I. member. A white elephant sale netted \$8.40.

Missisquoi: Dunham heard a paper "Farming in England", by the convenor of Agriculture, which was followed by a contest won by Mrs. M. Doherty. An invitation to be the guests of the Fordyce W.I. next month was accepted and \$10 voted to the New Sweetsburg Hospital campaign. Fordyce observed Citizenship Day and a paper was read. A successful food sale and tea was held and \$25 voted the Sweetsburg Hospital campaign. Stanbridge East entertained the annual county meeting. Seeds were purchased by this branch and distributed for the School Fair. A rummage sale was held at the close of the meeting.

Richmond: The annual meeting was held at Richmond, with Mrs. R. Thomson, past provincial president, as speaker. Denison's Mills held a Singer Sewing Machine demonstration of fancy stitches. Gifts were presented to the past president and past secretary. At Melbourne Ridge Mr. Galen Driver gave a talk on "What a Boy or Girl Learns in the Agriculture Course at Macdonald College". An auction sale of remnants was held. A paper, "The Tragedy of a Farmer", was read and a gift presented to a departing member. Windsor Mills featured a "fish pond" at their meeting, and prize money was voted to the schools. A group of 15 members were guests of the Tribune newspaper plant and radio stations, CHLT and CKTS, Sherbrooke. They were entertained at tea in the studio. Richmond Young Women's held an auction of remnants and a contest on vegetables was conducted by the convenor of Agriculture.

Rouville: Abbotsford heard an interesting resume of the work accomplished by the Q.W.I. and the objectives for the coming year, given by Mrs. R. Thomson, past president Q.W.I. Greetings and good wishes from Mrs. G. E. LeBaron, provincial president, were read.

Pontiac: Shawville entertained the annual county meeting. Mrs. LeBaron attended and the county president, Mrs. Findlay, was presented with a gift in recognition of her years of service to W.I. Mrs. Frank Ryan, also guest speaker, gave an interesting and vivid talk on some of the highlights of her recent trip to Europe.

Mrs. F. B. Mayhew,
Scotstown,
with the
hooked rug
that was shown
at the
handicraft exhibit
at Macdonald College.



Shefford: Granby Hill reports sending cheer to shut-ins and \$5 to the Children's Memorial Hospital. Red Cross work was done at their meeting. Warden found a conducted tour of the Mack Moulding Factory most interesting. A contest on local industries was held at their meeting.

Sherbrooke: Ascot reports a successful rummage sale. School Fair seeds were distributed and an overseas box sent. 20 members made a tour of the Carnation Milk Plant at Sherbrooke. An account of the part played by the R.C.M.P. escort to Princess (Queen) Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, written by one of Ascot's sons, Wellington Paige, himself one of the escorts, was read by his sister. Belvidere held a food sale. A quiz contest on Education was featured at the meeting. Brompton voted \$10 for sports and \$5 for prizes at the MacLeod School. Mrs. Buck, who is leaving for England, was presented with a gift. The convenor of Welfare and Health, Mrs. Riches, gave a talk on "Nose Bleeds." At Cherry River a sale of canned foods and jellies was held. Lennoxville voted money to pay their share in the support of the European child. Three members belonging to the Art Class assisted at the tea and art exhibit held in the Lennoxville W.I. rooms. Milby welcomed two new members. The convenor of Education read a paper on "W.I. Its Birth and Growth". A letter of thanks from the recipient of the overseas parcel was read. Orford heard a paper on "The Civil Defence Course", by Mrs. Mac Ross R.N. Five copies of "Cookery Around the World" were received and sold. Two members who attended the art class assisted with the tea and exhibit at Lennoxville. 35 ladies from Orleans County Homemaker's Club, were in attendance at the county meeting held in Lennoxville. Mrs. R. Thomson, provincial past president was guest speaker. A Fashion Show, through the courtesy of the Dominion Textile, was the entertainment feature. An exhibition of work done by the members of the Art Class was on display.

Stanstead: Ayer's Cliff entertained the county annual. A food parcel was sent to England and \$5 was donated to help pay the expenses of a representative from local school to the Junior Red Cross Rally in Montreal. Items from the Federated News were read, and membership in the C.A.C. was forwarded. Beebe is giving prizes for essays in the school and \$22 was realized from the rummage sale and over \$40 from the sale of Mother's Day flowers, made by one of the members and sold by school-girls, the proceeds sent to local hospitals. At Hatley a new member was enrolled and \$5 was sent to the Red Cross and for overseas parcel. Minton heard a description by a school boy of his recent trip to New York. A remnant sale was held. North Hatley's programme featured the "History of North Hatley Branch of Quebec Women's Institute", from 1919 to 1951, compiled and read by Mrs. Guy Kezar. A donation of clothing for

an overseas box was received and a rummage sale netted \$130. Stanstead North heard the report of Miss Flint on her trip to Three Rivers, where an address by the Deputy Minister of Immigration and Citizenship had been given. Mr. MacDougall, Agronome, showed slides on landscaping and improvement of farm homes. A food box was sent to England. Tomifobia sent \$10 to the Q.W.I. Service Fund. A pair of home woven towels and a blanket were sold for the benefit of W.I. fund and three baby showers were given. Way's Mills reports a successful food sale, also a rummage sale. An electric bottle warmer was presented to a young mother.

Vaudreuil: Cavagnal members visited the local hosiery mill after the business meeting. Harwood held an agricultural meeting with a talk given by Mr. Zandbergen of Macdonald College.

Liquid Fertilizer Seed Treatment Fails

Liquid fertilizer as a seed treatment has failed to give increases in the yield of cereal grains in 32 experiments conducted by Federal Experimental Farms across Canada, it is reported from Ottawa. A 3-18-9 liquid fertilizer was used on wheat, oats, or barley in all of these tests. It was applied at the rate of one gallon of liquid for each 5 to 8 bushels of grain, according to the manufacturers' instructions. This treatment was compared with plots seeded with grain which received no treatment. It was compared, also, with grain treated with an equivalent amount of pure, clear water. In no single instance, did the liquid fertilizer treatment show a significant increase in yield, over one or other of these check treatments.

It has been implied that this small amount of liquid fertilizer may be as effective in increasing yields, as standard commercial fertilizers, at recommended rates. It has been stated, too, that liquid fertilizer applied as a seed treatment, supplementing standard fertilizers, will increase yields considerably. In the above experiments, standard fertilizers gave significant and in fact outstanding increases in yields in 29 out of 32 tests. As already pointed out liquid fertilizer, alone, gave no significant increase in any test. Neither was there any significant response from this material applied in these small amounts, as a supplement to standard commercial fertilizer.

A product called Micro Dust, applied as a seed treatment, in similar small amounts, showed no beneficial effect in any of 31 tests.

The results of these experiments indicate that the treatment of the seed of cereal grains with these small amounts of fertilizer, approximately one pound of nutrients per acre, is neither economical nor useful.

Insect Resistance to Poisons Half Century Old

While many Canadians are under the impression that resistance by flies to DDT is a new trait developed by insects in the last few years, the fact is that resistance to pesticides dates back more than half a century.

Strains resistant to certain insecticides have been observed in many insect species in different parts of the world since 1900, writes J. A. Oakley, entomologist of C-I-L's agricultural chemicals department. The San José scale developed a resistance to lime-sulphur. The California Red scale and Black scale became immune to the lethal powers of hydrogen cyanide, the codling moth to lead arsenate and the Gladiolus thrips to tartar-emetic.

The first instance of house fly resistance to DDT occurred in Italy in 1946, two years after DDT was first introduced. Three years later the first authentic evidence of DDT resistant strains in Canada came as a result of tests in certain areas of Ontario and Quebec where control of flies could not be obtained with DDT.

Several explanations for this resistance are given by various research workers. One DDT resistant fly strain was observed to have thicker cuticle on the foot pad which may have reduced the absorption of DDT. Another strain of flies was found to be larger and more vigorous than normal flies due to a longer larval period. In several strains, resistance was associated with the ability of the flies to convert DDT into less toxic substances. This explanation appears to be most advanced and a search is now underway to find an additive which will prevent flies from changing DDT.

Where DDT-resistant flies are present, other insecticides may be used. These include methoxychlor, lindane, chlordane and other chlorinated hydrocarbons.



THE COLLEGE PAGE

The Macdonald Clan

Notes and News of Staff Members and Former Students

Farm Day, 1952

Some years ago we started the idea of holding open house early in the summer, to give farmers and their families a chance to visit the College, see what is going on here, pick up a few wrinkles and so forth. Combined with the annual meeting of the Farm Forums, it gave farm folk a chance to work in a day of business and pleasure, and it is proving increasingly popular. On June 21, in spite of fine weather which we feared might make many people decide to stay home and get on with the work, some 350 visitors arrived, saw the exhibits put on by the different departments, visited the livestock, and watched the various demonstrations that had been planned.

"Grassland Farming" was the theme, and all the events were planned around this subject. Some of the departments exhibited considerable ingenuity in building an exhibit around this idea. It is difficult, for example, to imagine how Handicrafts might build a booth that had anything to do with grass silage, but they came up with an excellent one — showing how sheep and cattle, which provide the wool and leather used in handicrafts, must have grass to live on.

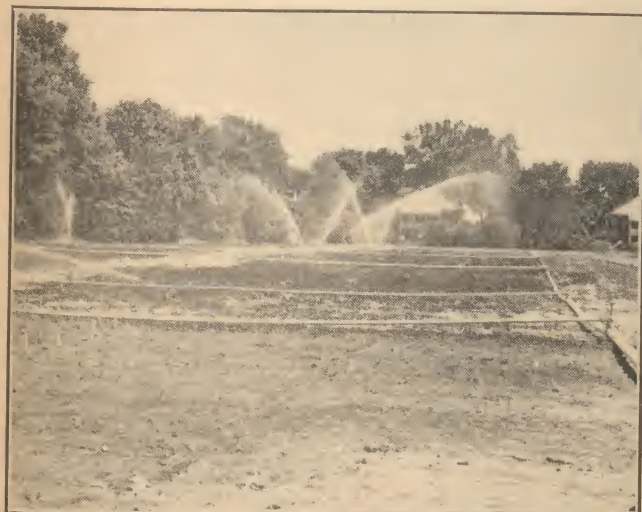


The silo-filling demonstration went off like clockwork.

The Agricultural Engineering and Agronomy Departments demonstrated the making of grass silage, with emphasis on low-cost machinery to do the job. Horticulture showed the use of grass as orchard cover, and also put on a demonstration of shrub planting. Entomology's exhibit was on white grubs, showing how they can damage grass roots. Animal Husbandry emphasized the value of grass as livestock feed, and provided a talk on calf feeding.

At the Arboretum, the demonstrations were on woodlot management, with displays of log loading equipment, mechanical wood splitters, motorized saws, tree planting machinery, etc.

All the arrangements for the day were planned and directed by the hard-working Field Day Committee, which, under the efficient direction of Frank Morrison, has the responsibility of preparing for these events. Visitors to the College for one of these planned days never fail to marvel at the way everything goes on smoothly with no one obviously running things; but we can assure them that a lot of careful planning, and a lot of hard work on the part of a few individuals, lies behind every successful event.



The Horticulture Department demonstrated its portable irrigation system, for which water is pumped from the Ottawa River.



THE MACDONALD LASSIE